

REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement dated May 9, 2007, the Examiner restricted the invention between three groups: Group I (i.e., claims 1 – 18) drawn to accessing data in non-relational database; Group II (i.e., claim 19) drawn to accessing hierarchical data in a non-relational database; and Group III (i.e., claim 20), drawn to a computer program product. In response hereto, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1 – 18, with traverse.

Applicant submits a "serious burden" is not placed on the Examiner in accordance with MPEP § 803. Applicant submits that the claims of the various groups are closely related and, as such, it is submitted that there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all of the claims together. Additionally, Applicant submits that the Examiner has already searched for all the claims in drafting the previous two Office Actions. Furthermore, Applicant believes that the search for all of the claims includes at least some amount of overlap. Thus, no serious burden would come to bear on the Examiner.

For the above-noted reasons, and consistent with the office policy as set forth in MPEP § 803, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the position taken in the above-mentioned Official Action and withdraw the restriction requirement in the present application. Accordingly, the Examiner's restriction requirement is believed to be improper and has been traversed for the reasons set forth above.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicant has elected with traverse the invention defined by the Examiner as Group I, claims 1 – 18 in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and fees necessary for the consideration of this paper to deposit account 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,
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